

Washington, DC – The following are remarks from U.S. Congressman Mike Pence on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the Pathway to Prosperity, a budget plan proposed by U.S. Congressman Paul Ryan for Fiscal Year 2012, which begins October 1, 2011:

"This country is in a lot of trouble. We're facing a fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions.

"They say the first step toward ending an addiction is recognizing you're an addict. I've got to tell you, after spending 10 years here in Washington, D.C., after witnessing runaway federal spending by both political parties, one thing is clear: Washington, D.C. is addicted to spending.

"It's high time for Congress to own up to its spending addiction and institute long-term, sustainable budget and spending reforms that will permanently limit the size and scope of the federal government.

"Happily, the budget resolution today offered by the distinguished Chairman Paul Ryan puts our nation back on a pathway toward fiscal solvency and prosperity. This Republican budget represents a bold step toward fiscal responsibility and limited government.

"It cuts \$6.2 trillion in spending over the next 10 years, reins in government spending below 20 percent, includes tax reforms to increase competitiveness for American companies and ensures that Medicare will be solvent for future retirees. It even ends the one size fits all approach to Medicaid, giving states more flexibility.

"It also stands in stark contrast to the president's budget which includes a \$1.6 trillion tax increase on families, small businesses and family farms and adds \$13 trillion to the national debt. This budget resolution renews our commitment to finally forcing Congress to live within our means and we must succeed in this cause.

"Because if we fail, the American dream will fail. We will burden our children and our grandchildren with a mountain range of debt, robbing opportunities and prosperity and leaving, for the first time in American history, the next American generation worse off than the generation that went before. This we must not do.

"I urge my colleagues to offer strong support for the Ryan budget resolution. Let's put our nation on a pathway toward fiscal solvency and prosperity."